MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 MARCH 1981

Iran

Khomeyni, Officials Meet--After a weekend in which differences between President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and his opponents continued to feature prominently in the media, Tehran radio reported that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni met with high-level leaders on 16 March. Those present at the meeting included President Bani-Sadr, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, Supreme Court President Mohammad Beheshti, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prosecutor General Musavi Ardabili, Supreme Defense Council spokesman 'Ali Khamene'i and former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan. After the meeting Beheshti told the radio that they had discussed the "present situation." Each official, he added, had written a concise account of his own views and submitted it to Khomeyni, who will announce the "final result." Bani-Sadr told the radio that the decision to submit written statements to Khomeyni followed their failure to reach a "common view." Both Beheshti and Rafsanjani said that Khomeyni may well call a further meeting before announcing his decision.

Television Debate Controversy--Over the weekend Tehran radio carried numerous reports concerning the possibility of a television debate between President Bani-Sadr and his opponents. Responding to an earlier call by the radio and television public relations office for a debate between Bani-Sadr and all those institutions he had "accused" in his 5 March Tehran University address, a 14 March statement by Bani-Sadr's public relations office, broadcast by the radio, called on Beheshti, Rafsanjani and Raja'i to participate in a face-to-face debate with the president. However, an announcement by Bani-Sadr, broadcast by the radio the following day, called on the radio and television network to arrange a series of discussions on seven topics including Islamic unity, the economy and foreign policy and invited representatives of "groups and political parties" to take part in them. Debates and discussions are needed, he said, to replace the use of force and eradicate the "disease of club wielding." Bani-Sadr stressed that he is not cooperating with any political party and asserted that efforts to associate him with some groups are aimed at turning opinion against him and creating an atmosphere of "confrontation."

Meanwhile, a statement by the Justice Ministry, broadcast by Tehran radio, said that while a televised debate could help to "clarify problems," Beheshti will participate only after the results of judicial investigations into the 5 March incidents are known. A statement on behalf of the prime minister, issued by his public relations office and broadcast by the radio, said there are "no important problems" between the government and the president that "cannot be discussed or settled at Cabinet meetings." Bani-Sadr can express his views and participate in Cabinet meetings, the statement pointed out, or if he has "certain problems" that need to be debated face-to-face with the prime minister, he should announce such problems publicly. Another statement by the same office, broadcast by the radio, announced that a Prime Ministry "representative" is willing to participate in a television debate to elaborate further on the question of Bani-Sadr's allegations against a special force of the Prime Ministry. The office reiterated that no such organization exists.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani announced that he agrees to participate in a television debate, Tehran radio reported, provided Bani-Sadr does not use it as an "excuse" to avoid engaging in discussions with the "revolutionary institutions" that were "insulted" on Thursday, 5 March. The radio also broadcast statements on 15 March by the revolution guards corps and the Central Islamic Revolution Committee announcing their readiness to participate in a televised debate with Bani-Sadr on the 5 March events.

A 15 March announcement by the radio and television public relations office, carried by the radio, extended the deadline to 17 March for all those it had earlier invited to participate in a televised debate to reply. The statement said that whereas all who have been "accused" by Bani-Sadr have declared their readiness to participate, Bani-Sadr has so far not declared his readiness to debate with them.

Statements on Political Divisions--Prominent theologians denounced the 5 March disturbances in their sermons on 13 March. In 'Ali Khamene'i's Friday sermon, broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service, he condemned "hypocritical groups" and described those who have created "chaos" as "trivial and insignificant groups." He called on his Tehran University mosque audience not to raise slogans, stressing the need to preserve unity. Khamene'i also defended the hezbollahi, supporters of the "party of God," asserting that "not one of them is a club wielder." Tehran radio reported that Qom's Friday imam, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, also condemned the 5 March incidents. In another sermon reported by the radio, Montazeri expressed concern about attempts by "biased and uncommitted" individuals in the armed forces to "eliminate pious and ideologically motivated" individuals. He called on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni not to remain silent on this matter.

In a 13 March interview in Khorramabad, reported by the radio, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani said the Majlis has "no intention of weakening" President Bani-Sadr and hopes that he will be "strong." Rafsanjani, who is on a tour of Lorestan, also told an audience in Ezna the following day that unity must be between Muslims and cannot include Marxists. Reporting his remarks, the radio noted that the Majlis speaker emphasized that differences of opinion among the responsible authorities are "natural" and should not culminate in a "confrontation." However, the radio reported that on the same day Rafsanjani told a rally in Rorujerd that Iran's enemies belong to a group that is "hiding under the president's umbrella."

State Prosecutor General Ardabili has also criticized Bani-Sadr in recent remarks. In a 12 March speech, a recording of which was broadcast by the radio, Ardabili said that the line of the president and his newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI is "completely contrary to what we want." He advised Bani-Sadr to refrain from public speaking and purge his own office and coordination bureau.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi President Addresses Troops--In a speech to People's Army fighters, broadcast by Baghdad radio, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn warned Iran's leaders that they have a "chance" to make peace, failing which the Iraqi Army will advance to capture "new cities and new land." Iran, he warned, is "divisible" and its Arab, Kurdish and other minorities should prepare to practice their patriotic and national rights. While Iran is "collapsing," Saddam Husayn went on, Iraq is "rising" and its army is "advancing again." He claimed that the Iraqi Army cannot be moved from its positions by force and asserted that its morale has improved.

Khamene'i Interview--In an interview with Tehran radio, Supreme Defense Council spokesman Khamene'i revealed that the council was unable to deal with the "main decisions" at its 13 March meeting owing to the absence of President Bani-Sadr. The council reviewed a plan submitted by the ground forces. Khamene'i also said that the visit of the foreign ministers of four Nonaligned Conference countries to Iran will not be "harmful" and thought it might not be "beneficial."

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported on 15 March that Iraqi missile and artillery fire hit Ahvaz and claimed that an Iraqi MiG fighter was downed near Khark Island. Earlier, the radio reported clashes near Susangerd and said that Iranian artillery set an Iraqi petrochemical plant near Basra on fire. Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by INA, claimed successes in the Gilan-e Gharb area and near Susangerd and reported that an Iranian F-14 fighter was shot down in a dogfight.

Pakistan

Hijackers Surrender--The hostages held by hijackers of a Pakistani airliner were released at Damascus airport on 14 March, Damascus television reported, and the hijackers gave themselves up to Syrian authorities. The release and surrender came after Pakistani officials agreed to free 55 prisoners whose release the hijackers demanded. According to Karachi radio, the prisoners were flown to Syria early on 14 March. Damascus radio reported that they arrived at Aleppo airport that afternoon. The radio later said that a plane chartered by Pakistan International Airlines took off from Aleppo carrying the prisoners to Libya. Although JANA had announced on 13 March that Libya would receive the prisoners "for humanitarian reasons," Karachi radio reported that on 14 March the Libyan Foreign Ministry informed the Pakistani ambassador that the Libyan Government had changed its mind and had decided not to allow entry to the hijackers and the released prisoners. The plane carrying the prisoners, en route to Libya, landed at Athens airport to refuel, Athens Armed Forces radio reported. According to AFP, it then took off for Damascus.

Damascus radio later reported that, in response to a request by Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad agreed to allow the plane to return to Syria. According to AFP, the plane landed at Damascus airport and the hijackers surrendered a few minutes later. Damascus radio later announced that the Syrian Government will permit the released prisoners to leave Syria for any country they wish.

Ziaul Haq Speech--President Ziaul Haq has said the hijackers were involved in a "deep-rooted conspiracy." In a speech broadcast live by Karachi radio, Ziaul Haq charged that most of the prisoners whose release the hijackers demanded are "related to a particular political party." He added that the decision to release the prisoners was a difficult one but that it was done in order to save the lives of "innocent and patriotic hostages." Criticizing the Kabul authorities for "lack of cooperation" in the matter, Ziaul Haq accused them of maintaining "continuous and close" links with the hijackers, treating them as "state guests" and giving them arms. The manner in which they publicized the murder of a Pakistani diplomat by the hijackers showed that it was part of a "well-planned scheme," he asserted. The president said that conditions in Damascus were better and expressed gratitude for Syrian President al-Asad's help but added that means other than negotiations and diplomatic pressure were "not available to us" in Syria. Concluding, he listed several steps that Pakistan must take to foil the "conspiracy" against it, including the unveiling and punishment of all those involved and the elimination of those who believe in the "politics of violence."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reports by Damascus radio on 13 and 14 March claimed that Jordanian forces fired on Palestinian resistance fighters on their way to cross the Jordan River into Israeli-occupied territory. The reports said that Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DPFLP) and As-Sa'iqah units were fired at on separate occasions by the Jordanians, despite instructions issued to both Palestinian units to avoid clashing with the Jordanians. Citing DPFLP sources, the radio said that the DPFLP patrol commander was seriously injured and taken captive by the Jordanians.

Lebanon

The Israeli news agency ITIM reported that, after Lebanese Army units were sent to southern Lebanon in accordance with a recent Syrian-Lebanese agreement, a force of Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia attacked a Lebanese Army unit stationed near the Israeli border and arrested four Lebanese soldiers.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 050 *16 March 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Addresses Wazir Tribe Representatives C 1
Bulgarian Trade Union Delegation Visits [BTA] C 2
Trade Unions Issue Declaration on Indian Ocean C 2
300 Government Soldiers Defect, Join Rebels C 3
Former King 'Approached' To Lead New Organization C 3

BANGLADESH

President Rahman To Visit Senegal, Mali D 1
New Delhi Charge on Border Crossings Denied D 1
Five on Trial for June 1980 Coup Attempt D 1

INDIA

Gandhi Addresses Governors on Nonaligned Outcome E 1
Assam Minister on Border Security, Infiltration E 1
Bangladesh Border Tightened E 1
3,000 Foreigners Deported E 1
Crude Oil Production To Double by Next Year E 1

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Discusses Resolution of Hijacking F 1
Murtaza Bhutto's Involvement in Hijacking Cited F 4
State Bank Governor Meets With Saudi Prince F 5
Activities of French Senate Delegation Reported F 5
Meets With Ziaul Haq F 5
Visits Afghan Refugees F 5

IRAN

Preparations Made for Debate on 5 Mar Events I 1
Deadline Extended 48 Hours I 1
Bani-Sadr Agrees to Debate I 1
Bani-Sadr on Need for Debate I 2
Raja'i Representative To Debate I 3
Prime Ministry Statement I 3
Rafsanjani Agrees to Debate I 4
Rafsanjani on Minigroups I 4
Guards Corps To Debate I 4
Revolution Committee To Debate I 5
Investigation To Precede Debate I 5
AFP on Exchange of Accusations I 5

Khomeyni Resumes Meetings, Details Reported I 6
Meets With Leaders I 6
Meets Officials, Unionists I 6
Meets With Various Groups I 7
Raja'i Addresses Seminar on Stimulation of Economy I 7
Raja'i, Nabavi Attend Meeting on 1981 Budget I 8
Bani-Sadr Appoints Head of National Police I 8
Bani-Sadr Returns to Tehran; Schedule Released I 8
Khamene'i on 13 Mar Defense Council Session I 9
Khamene'i Urges Muslims to Reject Gulf Force I 9
Rafsanjani Explains Popular Support for Clergy I 10
Rafsanjani Discusses Unity in Mosque Address I 11
Tehran Attacks U.S. Aid to Afghan Muslims I 11
ETTELA'AT: Publication of 10 Newspapers Banned I 12
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communiques 433-436 I 12
433: 12-13 Mar Fighting I 12
434: Booby-Trapped Articles I 13
435: 13-14 Mar Developments I 14
436: 14 Mar Fighting I 15
Clandestine Radio Comments on Disorder, Infighting I 15
[Voice of Al-Qadisiyah]
Radio Iran Cites Laingen, Orientologist on Regime I 16

KARMAL ADDRESSES WAZIR TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

LD152116 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the DRA Revolution Council and premier, received representatives of the Wazir, Utmanzai and Serkai tribes of Wazirestan in the Gol Khanah hall of the Revolution Council headquarters this afternoon. When Babrak Karmal arrived in the Gol Khanah hall, the audience welcomed him with a show of emotion, applause and a garland of flowers.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after a Koranic recitation and the playing of the DRA national anthem, Premier Karmal welcomed the representatives of the people of Wazirestan to the city of Kabul and to the Revolution Council headquarters and, after bidding them welcome, said: Your warrior-like and courageous faces prove that dear Afghanistan is honored all over the world and will remain so. You courageous and brave people have heroically defended the independence, honor and freedom of your country and I am absolutely confident that you will continue to defend our common homeland, in solidarity with your revolutionary government and party.

Premier Karmal, pointing to the treacherous conspiracies and shameless intrigues of Afghanistan's enemies, who have tried throughout history to create discord and hostility among the fraternal Pashtun tribes, said: The goal of our party and government is to maintain the unity, prosperity and welfare of all of the noble and toiling people of Afghanistan and to build a powerful and prosperous Afghanistan. But U.S. imperialism, Chinese chauvinism, Pakistani militarist circles and regional reaction still want to create discord, hostility and envy among our noble and toiling people and to impede the people's peace and Afghanistan's progress with baseless and poisonous propaganda. Still, we are proud that, besides all of the noble and toiling people of the Afghan tribes, we have the courageous people of Wazirestan, who have always fought bravely against aggression and attacks, dealing shattering blows to enemies.

Babrak Karmal pointed to the tyrannies and cruelties of the treacherous band of Amin, saying: I am aware of the problems that all of you have. I am aware of the tyrannies that the traitor Amin and his criminal bank inflicted upon you and your compatriots throughout Afghanistan. But today, that dark reign has passed and our people and our nation have been rescued. Today, the masters, the sardars [members of former royal family] and other royal figures are no longer here to impose their domination on our people. Today, the party, state and government are yours and are at your service. I and my struggling comrades have pledged to our people, as before, that our goal is the well-being of the people and the development and progress of Afghanistan. This is our slogan and we are moving forward with courage and sincerity on this path.

Premier Karmal, at the end of his speech, asked the representatives of the people of Wazirestan to convey his warm regards and good wishes to their toiling people and to assure them that the PDPA and the DRA respect and support all tribal traditions, customs and people's assemblies.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Malek Sakar, on behalf of the people of Wazirestan, made a statement in reply, affirming with Afghan pride and courage that they are ready for every kind of self-sacrifice in the defense of dear Afghanistan and the Sawr Revolution and that they will spare neither their lives nor their property for this cause.

Finally, a resolution by the people of Wazirestan, in which every kind of support for and cooperation with the revolutionary government was expressed, was read by one of the representatives and a traditional costume of the Wazirestan region was presented to Babrak Karmal, which was received with thanks.

BULGARIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION VISITS

AU131035 Sofia BTA in English 0846 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Sofia, 13 Mar (BTA)--Talks between trade union delegations of Bulgaria and Afghanistan were held in Kabul these days. The Bulgarian delegation, led by Mr Georgi Evgeniev, deputy chairman of the CC of the Bulgarian Trade Unions, participated in the work of the Congress of the Afghan Trade Unions.

It is stressed in the communique on the talks that the two delegations reviewed the bilateral TU cooperation and exchanged views on topical issues concerning the international situation and the world TU movement in an atmosphere of a complete mutual understanding. The general concern over the strain of the international situation as a result of the further expansion of the imperialist policy of strength, confrontation and hegemony, the interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states as well as the triggering of new conflicts was expressed in the communique.

The necessity of further strengthening the unity of action of the workers and the trade unions from all countries in the struggle for preserving the world peace, for strengthening and deepening detente and curbing the arms race, was unanimously emphasized. It is also pointed out that the friendship and cooperation between the socialist community countries, led by the Soviet Union, and between the other progressive forces all over the world are the safest guarantee of the fulfillment of the legitimate interests and strivings of the peoples fighting for their national liberation and independence.

The two delegations highly assessed the role of the WFTU in the struggle for unity and unity of action of the international TU movement, for workers solidarity. The two countries' trade unions signed an agreement and a 2-year plan for promoting their mutual cooperation.

TRADE UNIONS ISSUE DECLARATION ON INDIAN OCEAN

LD160714 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 15 Mar (BAKHTAR)--Following is the text of the declaration of the First Congress of the DRA Trade Unions, held recently, concerning the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean should be made a zone of peace and cooperation.

"The delegates of the First Congress of the DRA Trade Unions express their deep concern on the increased U.S. military influence in the Indian Ocean and the intensification of tension in the international arena. By this act the U.S. has revealed its total disregard of the UN declaration about the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

"The peace-loving mankind is fully aware that the real goal of U.S. imperialism in the region is based on ensuring the dominance of international oil cartels, defending the interests of the transnational companies, weakening of the national liberation movements, undermining the independence of the countries of the region and the revival of cold war.

"The First Congress of the DRA Trade Unions declares its support for the demand of the WFTU and the initiatives of other states for transforming the Indian Ocean into a peace zone which conforms with the UN declaration and the interests of the countries of the region.

"The delegates of the First Congress of the DRA Trade Unions believe that this region should be turned into a region of cooperation, economic independence and development, an area of durable peace and security for all the neighbouring countries."

300 GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS DEFECT, JOIN REBELS

BK160633 Hong Kong AFP in English 0628 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, 16 Mar (AFP)--A unit of the Afghan Army of 300 soldiers and 11 officers, stationed in the Lowgar Province, south of Kabul, defected last week and joined the rebels fighting the Soviet and Afghan Government forces, Third World diplomatic reports reaching here today said. This is the first major defection reported this year, the reports said. The combined strength of the rebels and the defected soldiers mounted an attack on a Soviet convoy near Garzed and killed at least 24 Soviet soldiers, including one officer, the reports said. In the ambush, the rebels also destroyed at least five trucks carrying supplies. Further details are awaited.

FORMER KING 'APPROACHED' TO LEAD NEW ORGANIZATION

BK131234 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 13 Mar (AFP)--An Afghan insurgent intellectual group is quietly working to form an organization--not hostile to the Soviet Union--which it claims could ensure withdrawal of Soviet troops and formation of a popular government in Afghanistan without further bloodshed, an Afghan source said today. The deposed Afghan monarch, Mohammad Zaher Shah, toppled in 1973 after a 40-year reign and now living in exile in Italy, is being approached by the group either to lead or join the organization, Syed Mohammad Moiwand, a New Delhi-based Afghan leader, said.

The new organization, first of its kind since Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan in December, 1979, will be different in character and functioning from the Pakistan-based rebel groups, Mr Moiwand, who heads the Afghan Liberation Organization, said. A ranking leader of an opposition political party in Afghanistan met the 67-year-old former Afghan king in his four-bedroom villa north of Rome in January as the group's representative and appraised him of the plan, Mr Moiwand said. A formal offer to Zaher Shah, who was ousted from power in a July 1973 coup led by his cousin and former prime minister, Mohammad Daud, will be made later this month and the organization is expected to be formed by the beginning of April, he said. Mohammad Amin Wakman, secretary general of the Afghan Social Democrat Party, met the deposed king on behalf of the group, but no details of the talks are available.

Zaher Shah, who was in Italy taking a rheumatism cure at the baths in Ischia, at the time when Mohammad Daud assumed power, has said repeatedly that he does not claim his former throne. But his son-in-law and spokesman, Gen Abdul Wali, has gone on record saying "The king is a patriot at the service of his people and the nation. He would be available as a leader if people wanted it."

Zaher Shah had issued a public statement within two days of the Soviet intervention, condemning what he called a "violation of Afghan sovereignty." Since then he has not made any public statement. "Zaher Shah is the only one in Afghanistan today who is trusted by a very great majority of tribes, intellectuals, students, government officials, elders and people of Afghanistan," Mr Moiwand said.

"With the king in the proposed organization, it will be easier to deal with all the parties involved in the Afghan issue, including the Russians," he said. "The king will be acceptable to the Russians because in his time he saw to it that no step should be taken to harm in any way the interest of the Soviet Union."

"The aim of the proposed organisation is to form an alternative to the Babrak Karmal regime and we are sure it would be acceptable to all," Mr Moiwand said. "We are not heading to form a government in exile...it would mean a confrontation with the Soviets or the present Afghanistan regime. We just want to provide an alternative, to start negotiations and the details can be worked out later," he said.

PRESIDENT RAHMAN TO VISIT SENEGAL, MALI

BK140943 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpt] President Ziaur Rahman is to visit the two West African states of Senegal and Mali, beginning on Wednesday next [18 March]. The president, accompanied by Begum Ziaur Rahman, leaves Dacca on Tuesday next, arriving in Dakar, the Senegalese capital, on Wednesday. He goes on to Bamako, the capital of Mali, on the 20th, for a 2-day visit. The president's entourage will include foreign Minister Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq; the president's adviser, Daud Khan Majlis; the foreign secretary; the foreign trade secretary; and other senior officials. The 4-day state visit, the first ever of the Bangladesh president to Senegal and Mali, is taking place at the invitation of President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and President Moussa Traore of Mali.

NEW DELHI CHARGE ON BORDER CROSSING DENIED

BK130556 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] No Bangladesh national has illegally crossed into the Indian state of Mizoram and there is no question of their being pushed back into Bangladesh. This was stated by a spokesman of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dacca yesterday, when his attention was drawn to a news item broadcast by the New Delhi radio. The spokesman termed the contents of the news story about the alleged infiltration as completely baseless and without any foundation whatsoever.

FIVE ON TRIAL FOR JUNE 1980 COUP ATTEMPT

BK151208 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Dacca, 15 Mar (AFP)--Three army officers and two civilians are being tried by a military court on charges of spearheading an abortive coup in Dacca in June last year, newspapers quoting defence lawyers reported today. Questions on the alleged coup were raised in parliament during the budget session last year by opposition members, but Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman in a statement had dismissed it as a minor incident. Reports said the trial began early last week in Dacca cantonment against two lieutenant colonels, Didarul Alam and Nurunnabi Khan, one retired Lt Col Abdul Aziz Pasha and two civilians Mosharraf Hossain, a bank employee, and Kazi Munir Hossain, a university student. Alam, who was an artillery officer at the time, was believed to be the ringleader of the coup of June 17. Reports said the retired Colonel Pasha was serving in a foreign mission in Bangladesh. According to reports, the five accused have been charged with spreading dissatisfaction among the armed service personnel, attempting to capture power through revolt by the army and holding secret meetings in Dacca and Bogra cantonments for the purpose.

The court, according to the weekly "HOLIDAY," is headed by a brigadier and includes one full colonel, one lieutenant colonel and a captain. The largest circulated Bengali daily, ITTEFAQ, reported that during the trial lawyers defending the two civilians challenged the jurisdiction of a military court in trying civilian persons and pleaded that they be tried by civil courts. But the court, described as a "field general court martial," rejected the plea saying armed services rules, amended in 1967, permitted trial of civilians by military courts for offences like inciting armed forces personnel.

Official sources when contacted declined to comment on the reports. A number of opposition political leaders including retired Major Jalil of the Nationalist Socialist Party, JSD, had issued a joint statement criticising the trial of civilian persons in a military court for an abortive coup.

GANDHI ADDRESSES GOVERNORS ON NONALIGNED OUTCOME

BK160719 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The prime minister has emphasized the paramount need for vigilance to prevent deterioration in the law and order situation. Mrs Gandhi was addressing the concluding session of the governors conference in New Delhi yesterday. She deplored the general decline in respect for authority and stressed the need for discipline and for achieving a high level of administrative efficiency. She also referred to the need for strengthening the spirit of nationalism and for observing certain basic norms with regard to various important issues. Turning her attention to international affairs, the prime minister said that the recent Nonaligned Conference in New Delhi had succeeded in maintaining the unity of the movement. She said rivalries between the superpowers are being brought to this region and tensions in Asia are increasing. Mrs Gandhi said the North-South dialogue is important for all developing countries.

ASSAM MINISTER ON BORDER SECURITY, INFILTRATION

Bangladesh Border Tightened

BK151642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Security measures along the Assam-Bangladesh international border have been further intensified, to check infiltration effectively. In a special interview given to an All-India Radio Gauhati correspondent on the completion of 100 days in office today, State Chief Minister Mrs Anwara Taimur said the number of border checkposts has been increased. Villages along the riverine border has been strengthened. The state government is planning to erect barbed wire fencing along the Assam-Bangladesh border to check further infiltration.

About the foreign nationals issue, Mrs Taimur reiterated that it is a national issue and the solution must be found at a national level. She said that the center has been sympathetic in finding a solution to the problems. Five out of eight demands of agitation organizations have already been accepted. The doors for further negotiations are still open, she added. Mrs Taimur also said that her government is concentrating on repairing the damages caused to the state's economy by the prolonged agitation. Development works, which remained at a standstill for over 1 year, have now been speeded up, she said.

3,000 Foreigners Deported

BK141600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] The Assam government has detected and deported more than 3,000 foreign nationals. This was stated by Chief Minister Mrs Anwara Taimur in Dibrougarh today. She said security measures in the border areas have been strengthened and steps are being taken to construct walls along the border.

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION TO DOUBLE BY NEXT YEAR

BK151641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] According to official sources, the crude production is expected to be doubled by next year. The production is likely to go up from the present 9.2 million tons to 16.9 million. Onshore exploration will be intensified in Assam, (?Arakan), Krishna-Godavari and Kaveri basins. Exploration work in West Bengal, Ganga valley, Himalayan foothills, Rajasthan, Orissa coast and other areas is also to be stepped up.

ZIAUL HAQ DISCUSSES RESOLUTION OF HIJACKING

BK151530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1405 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Address to the nation by Pakistan President Ziaul Haq on the recent hijacking and the Pakistan Government's handling of the situation--recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I would like to speak with you today on an issue that has held the mind of the entire nation for about 2 weeks. I know that every moment of this period was full of grief and anguish for all of us. Today, taking you into my confidence, I would like to tell you briefly what the issue was and why the chosen course was adopted to solve it. I would also like to tell you who was behind this incident and something about their goals.

As you know, a PIA Boeing became a victim of air pirates while on a flight from Karachi to Peshawar on 2 March. The aircraft was forced to land at Kabul airport and all of the passengers and the crew were held as hostages. After a week's stay there, the hijacked airliner was flown to Damascus, where after another week the aircraft and the hostages were released--this morning. Every moment of the hostages' captivity was like a huge weight pressing down on the Government and people of Pakistan. The people offered prayers for the hostages' early and safe return, and the government not only prayed for a solution to the problem, but also continued its constant efforts. You have been informed of everything the government has done in this regard through the newspapers, radio and television.

As you know, as soon as we received information about this incident, we sent a negotiating team to Kabul, which failed in its objectives because of a lack of cooperation on the part of the authorities there. Despite persistent efforts, this team was not allowed to establish direct contact with the hijackers. The Pakistani authorities were allowed to communicate with the hijackers only four times, over the radio. Even this was in the presence of a dozen Afghan officials. At the same time, the Afghan authorities maintained continuous and close links with the hijackers. They treated the hijackers as state guests--besides furnishing them with arms, they also provided them with facilities for sleeping, eating and resting and gave them access to the media, at a time when the hostages were forced to pass their days and nights under the shadow of death. During this period of hospitality provided by the Kabul authorities, an innocent hostage and young diplomat, Tariq Rahim, the martyr, was brutally killed and thrown out of the aircraft.

The way in which the Kabul authorities publicized this coldblooded murder clearly attests to the fact that it was part of a well-planned scheme. It also shows how much the Kabul authorities care for international law and civilized norms, for according to international law and customs, the safety of hostages and aircraft is the responsibility of the country on whose soil the hijacked plane lands.

The history of hijacking bears testimony to the fact that concerned nations in the past have taken extraordinary steps to fulfill their obligation. As you know, a few years ago Pakistan itself exhibited this civilized behavior when some Indians forcelanded an Indian aircraft at Lahore airport. We used all possible means for the release of the passengers, crewmembers and the aircraft. The aircraft landed in the morning and that same night the hostages were brought out of the aircraft and, within the next few hours, the hijackers were overpowered and the aircraft was released. But the Kabul authorities' attitude was clearly unexpected and antagonistic, although when one of their MiG-17 aircraft and crew landed at Kohat airport in August 1978, we sent the aircraft and crew back to Kabul the very next day, without creating any problems for the Kabul authorities.

My dear countrymen: As I said, the Government of Pakistan continued its diplomatic activities, including the efforts of the negotiating team in Kabul. The Foreign Ministry called nearly all foreign diplomats stationed in Islamabad to the foreign office and individually briefed them on the situation and sought help from the friendly countries.

Pakistani embassies abroad were also directed to contact concerned governments, to promote the hostages' release. I myself sent messages to many heads of foreign countries in this connection and talked with a few of them on the telephone. The UN secretary general, the International Red Cross and the chairman of the Islamic Conference were apprised of the situation and were requested to use their influence in this matter.

While our diplomatic efforts were continuing, two significant events took place. Women and children were released from the plane and returned to Pakistan, and later the hijacked aircraft arrived in Damascus from Kabul.

Conditions in Damascus were more favorable than in Kabul, and the Syrian Government was expected to exhibit better conduct. During extraordinary diplomatic efforts, I myself spoke twice on the telephone with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and personally requested him to help us in solving this crisis. I am grateful that he placed importance on my pleas.

Besides diplomatic efforts, we also reviewed various means that could be employed to release our countrymen. Along with negotiations and diplomatic pressure, other steps have also been tried in the past in dealing with hijacking incidents. But it should be remembered that the success of these steps depends upon the support or indifference displayed by the concerned government. Despite our efforts, such avenues were not available to us in Damascus. It is worth contemplating the fact that if diplomatic efforts prove futile and other steps are not permitted, then what course of action would be left to the Government of Pakistan to obtain the release of hostages?

We perceived in this regard that we were faced not only with several obstinate hijackers, but that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy behind the incident. Several facts point to such a conspiracy. Just look at the demands of the hijackers: They did not demand large amounts of money, like their criminal brethren. Instead, they demanded the release of persons belonging to a particular political and ideological group. It will be clear to you when you see the names of these people during the next few days that they are against the ideology of Pakistan, believe in the politics of violence and consider it their duty to commit crime and to support criminal activities. Most of them are related to a particular political party and most of our countrymen are now aware of its hated nature. This conspiracy is against the security of Pakistan and its Islamic ideology and is being assisted by some anti-Pakistan elements outside the country. The goal of this conspiracy is to punish Pakistan for its principled stand, because it is obstructing foreign countries' designs through its faith in Islam.

On a number of occasions I have drawn the attention of my countrymen to internal subversion and noted that these elements can succeed only when they are supported by like-minded people inside the country. We have to keep watch on these domestic enemies in the guise of friends and we must defeat their designs. I am fully confident that the joint efforts of the government and the patriotic people, God willing, will succeed. I also thoroughly understand the Pakistani nation and its determination. If anyone thinks that the self-respecting people of Pakistan and its Government will change course because of violence, he suffers from deep misunderstanding. We, the 80 million people of Pakistan, have decided that Islam is our spirit and our faith. We cannot be removed from the path of Islam by internal conspiracies and foreign threats. The people of Pakistan will sacrifice their lives but will never leave the path of Islam.

Bearing this in mind, we constantly reviewed the hostages problem for 13 days; a cabinet meeting was held almost every day and we discussed how this problem could be solved, while adhering to our principled stand.

Would the solution lie in the unhesitating sacrifice of 102 hostages, by making it an issue of prestige? Would it be that pirates should be treated like pirates and revenge should be taken on those persons who were identified by the hijackers for release? Would the solution be that relatives and family members be punished for the crimes of three hijackers? I was also advised to deal with the situation sternly and to answer threat with threat, so that, should the hostages be killed, the pirates' kinsmen and relatives would be treated in the same way. I respect all of these suggestions and sentiments and understand that they were given with good intentions. But it is something that must be considered, whether civilized governments should treat pirates' relatives like pirates, because of the latters' actions; whether the law of the land permits the hanging of relatives of a criminal, if he cannot be apprehended; whether Islam allows that someone else in captivity can be shot if the criminal is not caught, simply because the criminal has asked for his release. We fully considered the hardline attitude many times during our consultations and felt the forcefulness of the formula "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and a life for a life."

But after careful consideration, all cabinet members, all four provincial governors and the three armed service chiefs decided that the government should not be sentimental in making decisions. We should never choose a path that is against the law of the country and Islamic principles. The government, believing in the supremacy of law, should respect the law. That is why we decided that instead of giving a taste of piracy to the pirates' relatives or to their sympathizers in custody, we would deport the demanded persons, in order to save the lives of 102 dear countrymen.

Dear ladies and gentlemen! I tell you sincerely that this was not an easy decision to make, because the government also had many strong arguments against such a decision. But we decided it would be better to adopt a civilized attitude, in line with the law of the land and Islamic principles, and preferred saving the lives of innocent and patriotic hostages to the issue of expelling a few rotten eggs, for the life of every captive in the aircraft was very dear to us. We had already regretted the loss of one valuable life. Apart from the threat of loss of life, we were also aware of the hostages' difficult and unfortunate plight and mindful of the need to end their misery.

That is why we informed the Syrian Government of our decision without delay and authorized it to take the necessary action to implement this. The Pakistan ambassador was already present in Damascus to help in this matter. As soon as authentic guarantees of the immediate release of the hostages and the aircraft were received, a Pakistan aircraft carrying 54 persons left for Syria, at 1130 yesterday morning. These persons were handed to the Syrian Government in the afternoon. At the last moment, an unexpected problem was created by the Libyan Government's refusal to accept the released prisoners, despite its stated position. The Syrian aircraft had to return from Tripoli to Syria, after a refuelling stop at Athens.

In light of the new situation, I again contacted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and sent him another message, drawing his attention to the new direction of the crisis. He suggested that if the Pakistan Government does not protest, the Syrian Government could give temporary political asylum to the released prisoners and the hijackers. We had no argument with this suggestion, as it was the only way of securing the hostages' release. And so we informed the Syrian Government of our reaction.

Thank God, the door of the hostage plane opened at about 0230 this morning and they breathed the air of freedom for the first time in 2 weeks. The passengers and crew have been sent to a Damascus hospital, where they are being provided with medical treatment. For this purpose, the government has sent a special high-level medical team to Damascus. There should be no concern over their medical care. Before recording my speech here at the studios, I established contact with Damascus and I am very happy to say that all of the released Pakistanis, through the grace of God, are healthy and there is no need for any concern.

God willing, within 2 or 3 days all of them will return home safely. It is our desire that, before returning home, they perform 'umra and visit the tomb of the holy prophet, peace be on him, and thus obtain both blessings.

The incident is now safely over, through the grace of God. But we should not consider this as the end of the matter. As I have already said, the incident was part of a wider conspiracy against Pakistan. Thus there is a need for urgent and effective steps to keep the country free of the unholy designs of the antination elements; it is also evident that these steps will succeed only when they enjoy the overwhelming and effective cooperation of the people. Matters to which we are paying immediate attention are: A detailed inquiry into the incident, with the persons involved to be severely punished; if there is any derilection of duty by government departments or organizations or negligence, then the responsible persons should be given exemplary punishment; all elements behind this conspiracy should be unveiled and the culprits punished; believers in the politics of violence should be wiped out; special arrangements should be made for the prevention of such incidents and the lives and property of the people and their journeys should be made as secure as possible.

The government is aware of its responsibilities and it is determined that the pirates responsible for this incident and other criminals involved, whether they are inside or outside the country, be severely punished.

Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate all countrymen on the peaceful end of this crisis and appreciate your patience, perseverance and spirit expressed during the past 2 weeks. I also salute the spirit, determination and the tolerance of the released passengers and the crew of the aircraft, especially the mother who, despite the offer of release, refused to leave her son; the air hostesses, who preferred the call of duty to their release; and the Pakistani doctors, who, forgetting their miseries, provided medical aid to other distressed people. The heads of state who helped us resolve this humanitarian issue at my request and used their good offices also deserve my most sincere thanks.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad about the happiness of 102 families and of the country, saved from a national tragedy and a collective mourning. Thank God. In my opinion, it was a test for us from God. May God help us overcome every test. During this test, the entire nation has shown determination, a high spirit and the strong power of faith and it has proven that Islam and believers in high humanitarian values can never be browbeaten by terrorism. They have made it evident that the believers in God and His Holy prophet will not be broken by the vile acts of some antinational elements. Rather, they gain power and strength from God and His commandments during the most severe tests. No internal or external conspiracy, God willing, can overwhelm the enviable determination of such a nation. Long live Pakistan!

MURTAZA BHUTTO'S INVOLVEMENT IN HIJACKING CITED

BK160634 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] According to Pakistan Press International, in an interview given to the weekly BOONYAD of Delhi, Murtaza Bhutto has admitted that he is secretary general of the People's Liberation Army, which was founded in 1979. The hijacker of the plane, Alam Gir, had said that the People's Liberation Army was the previous name of the organization Al-Zulfiqar, to which he belonged.

According to BCC, Murtaza Bhutto, in a statement published in THE SUNDAY TIMES, today said he was making preparations for this hijacking for the last year.

STATE BANK GOVERNOR MEETS WITH SAUDI PRINCE

BK160946 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Saudi Prince Mohammad al-Faysal met with State Bank Governor A.G.M. Kazi in Karachi yesterday and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. Pakistan's Minister for Overseas Pakistani Affairs Moazzam Ali was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, in a joint session of the heads of monetary organizations Prince Mohammad al-Faysal promised that the Saudi Arabian Government would assist Pakistan in its program to mold the economic system in accord with Islamic principles. He also presided over a session of the board of directors of the Pan-Islamic Steamship Company.

In an interview with Radio Pakistan, Prince Mohammad al-Faysal said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are cooperating in various economic sectors and that efforts are underway to increase this cooperation. He said that in addition to public sector cooperation, the two countries' private sectors are also cooperating. He also noted that the Pan-Islamic Steamship Company, in which Saudi Arabia owns 49 percent of the total shares, is being reconstituted.

Prince Mohammad al-Faysal is to arrive in Islamabad tomorrow for talks with other Pakistani leaders and officials.

ACTIVITIES OF FRENCH SENATE DELEGATION REPORTED

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK130428 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] A seven-member delegation of the French Senate's Commission for Foreign Affairs and Defense, led by commission president Jean Lecanuet, called on President Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening. They exchanged views on the situation resulting from the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The delegation highly praised Pakistan's solid stand in this regard and expressed appreciation of Pakistan's principled policy to create stability in the region. Foreign Affairs Secretary General S. Shahnawaz was also present on the occasion.

Visits Afghan Refugees

BK141618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] The seven-member delegation of the French Senate's Commission for Foreign Affairs and Defense visited an Afghan refugee tent village near Peshawar today. Delegation leader Jean Lecanuet, who is also the president of the commission, told the Afghan refugees that France was highly impressed with their struggle for independence and that they hoped the Afghan people would succeed in this struggle. He said that the French Government would continue to support the stand of the Afghan people until Soviet troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan.

France has raised the Afghan refugees issue at diplomatic and international levels, on the basis of principle. French Ambassador to Pakistan Paul Henry told the Afghan refugees that the French Government would continue to provide them with aid on a humanitarian basis.

PREPARATIONS MADE FOR DEBATE ON 5 MAR EVENTS

Deadline Extended 48 Hours

LD151824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] In a statement the public relations office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for the purpose of announcing the readiness of President Bani-Sadr to debate with organizations that were accused during the 5 March incident at Tehran University, has extended the deadline 48 hours. The text of the statement is as follows:

In a previous statement by this unit regarding the invitation extended to President Bani-Sadr and all organizations that were the subject of accusations in the 5 March incident, the Muslim and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran was informed that Sunday 15 March was the deadline for declaration of readiness to participate in a televised debate. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the public relations office of the prime minister, the Islamic Republican Party, the Central Islamic Revolution Committee, the chamber of workers [khaneh-ye kargar], (Meqdad) secondary school, the weekly ETTELA'AT, the housing foundation and a group of Mashhad Muslim students, Kowsar, all who have been accused, have declared their readiness. However, since President Bani-Sadr has so far not declared his readiness to debate with the accused organizations, the deadline set in the previous statement is extended for 48 hours, that is, up to the close of business on Tuesday 17 March.

Bani-Sadr Agrees to Debate

LD141124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Following the invitation issued by the public relations office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to a television debate with the participation of all the institutions accused during the address by the president of the republic, the public relations office of the presidency announced a new proposal today as follows:

In His exalted name. To the organization of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In connection with your organization's invitation for a television debate on the 5 March events we wish to inform you that in view of the fact that such attitudes, which are tantamount to the most sinister heritage of the Aryamehr regime, have not yet been extirpated in this country, and that one should make sure that the roots of events should be uncovered and destroyed once and for all, the president of the republic believes that the roots of these events can only be investigated and uncovered in a face-to-face debate with the highest authorities of the country: the president of the state Supreme Court, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the prime minister. The public relataions office of the presidency hereby announces the president of the republic's readiness to participate in that debate solely under the said conditions.

[Signed] The public relations office of the presidency

The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming the new proposal by the president of the republic for a free debate with the highest authorities in the country, reminds you that the organization's previous invitation, which was extended to all institutions and the president of the republic, still stands.

Bani-Sadr on Need for Debate

LD151344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1042 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Announcement by Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 15 March]

[Text] In the present circumstances, at a time when internal crises and conspiracies planned by external and internal enemies have placed the country in a dangerous state and the absence of urgent investigation into, and the urgent obliteration of, the principal causes and reasons of the political and social upheavals are about to cause the crushing of the unified and integrated alliance of the Muslim nation of Iran, endangering the existence of the country and the continuation of the Islamic revolution, I feel it necessary to again attract the public's attention to the following points:

The greatest success of the Islamic revolution of Iran has been the active and continuous presence of and supervision by the people in the revolutionary movement and the shaping of its principles. To make this possible it is necessary to have a flow of discussion, debate, guiding views and various attitudes, as well as the identification and manifestation of their truthfulness or deviation for the public.

The imposition of force and the use of clubs, suppression, slander, conspiracy and toughness must be replaced with creative and fruitful debates and discussion, in which pure is known from impure and a clear border between Islam and other things is made clear to everybody, so that groups and various organizations do not distort reality by mistake or on purpose and, using the distorted version, add to political and social tension and skirmishes.

Any group or political party that claims that it has made a cooperation agreement with me is telling a lie. Any group that, under the pretext of taking sides with me and opposing others, disturbs people and does something in this regard has acted against my beliefs. Before the revolution, after the revolution, in the course of the presidential election and after it, I never had any dealings with any political party, group, or association and do not have any at present.

I hope that in the course of the open discussion I can clarify my positions regarding the political and critical attitude and views expressed by these groups and parties.

Efforts made toward pinning groups on me aim at creating an atmosphere, directing opinions against the president and creating an excuse for an atmosphere of confrontation. Whenever a group or political party wants to enforce its political hostilities and enmity under the cover of supporting the president, it does something wrong and opportunistic. I hope that these efforts will not direct attention away from the great disease of clubwielding, and that the search for its roots and final cure will not be forgotten.

Regarding these points and the imam's emphasis on the implementation of this matter, I invite the representatives of groups and political parties to refer to the public relations section of my office in order to take part in this series of open discussions about such matters as those mentioned below.

It is the duty of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to arrange for the recording and broadcasting of a series of discussions on the following:

1. Islamic unity.
2. Recognition of economic recovery.
3. Dialectics, antagonism and monotheism.
4. Freedom and its limitations in the Islamic Republic.
5. Spiritual matters and ethics in Islam.
6. The imam's policy and its requirements.
7. Foreign policy and the principle of neither East nor West.

[Signed] The president, Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

Raja'i Representative To Debate

LD151246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the following statement was issued by the public relations office of the Prime Ministry in connection with the invitation extended by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a television debate on the 5 March Tehran University events:

In the name of God. Public relations office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In reply to the invitation extended by your organization for a television debate between the president and accused organizations, we inform you: On 5 March a reference was made [by the president] to the so-called special Prime Ministry force. The public relations office of the Prime Ministry and the government's spokesman, both in a statement and a press conference, elaborated on the truth of the matter.

Now our compatriots know well that such an organization does not exist within the Prime Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, the representative of the Prime Ministry is willing to participate in the proposed television debate to elaborate even further on the topic.

Prime Ministry Statement

LD151218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Statement issued by the public relations office of the Iranian Prime Ministry--date not given]

[Text] In His exalted name. In response to the president's invitation to hold a debate with the prime minister and other Islamic Republic officials, the public relations office of the Prime Ministry hereby announces the prime minister's views for the information of the president and the dear compatriots:

The Cabinet meets three times a week. According to article 127 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whenever the president wishes to attend its meeting the Cabinet may meet in his presence and under his chairmanship. Consequently, he can take part in the meetings of the Cabinet and participate in the debate and discussions. Moreover, if he has any suggestions for solving the country's difficulties, problems, crises and issues, he can express them at these meetings. However, if the problem of the war prevents him from attending the meetings, the Cabinet is prepared to meet at any place he suggests; or he can inform the government in writing about his views, plans and programs. Obviously, it ought to be explained that during the 7 months since the formation of this government, he has taken part in only one Cabinet meeting, and failed to take any other step.

We believe that there exist no important problems between the government and the president that cannot be discussed or settled at Cabinet meetings or by legal authorities, such as the Council of Guardians or the state investigation department [bazresi-ye kol-e keshvar]. Nevertheless, if he is of a different opinion, if he has certain problems that he believes can only be raised and discussed during face-to-face debate with the prime minister, then the president should make this public and mention the problems.

At any rate, the government is always prepared to listen to his views, and brother Raja'i, as head of the government, has always been and continues to be prepared to do so.

Rafsanjani Agrees to Debate

LD141732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani has agreed to a recent proposal made by President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to hold a televised debate. He said:

I hereby agree to participate in a television debate provided that President Bani-Sadr does not use it as an excuse to avoid engaging in discussions with the revolutionary institutions which were insulted on Thursday, 5 March.

Rafsanjani on Minigroups

LD141826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon left Dorud and arrived in Borujerd where he addressed a rally at the Taleqani stadium. During his speech he reviewed the achievements of the revolution at various levels and dimensions, saying: Those confronting us are specific groups of various types which oppose our revolution. There are also minigroups that claim there is no freedom in the country. We ought to ask these groups: If there is no freedom here then how do you explain your existence in this country?

Continuing his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The enemy failed to defeat the people in the prerevolution era, though they controlled everything and America was on the scene. Consequently, today, when everything is controlled by the people, what can they possibly do? He added: Our enemies are confined to a group that, unfortunately, is hiding under the president's umbrella. However, their provocations were exposed during the incidents which took place at Tehran University.

After his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani left Borujerd for Khorramabad.

Guards Corps To Debate

LD151230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Statement by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps issued on 15 March]

[Text] In the name of God. Following the invitation extended by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take part in a televised debate on the events of 5 March, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps hereby declares its readiness to participate in the debate.

Revolution Committee To Debate

LD151234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 81

["Text" of statement by the public relations office of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee issued on 15 March]

[Text] In the name of God. Following the regrettable events at Tehran University on 5 March, the Central Islamic Revolution Committee declares its readiness to participate in the television debate with Mr Bani-Sadr, the president.

[Signed] The public relations office of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee

Investigation to Precede Debate

LD151142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] In connection with the president's proposal concerning a television debate with the speaker of the Majlis, the president of the Supreme Court and the prime minister, the following statement has been issued by the public relations office of the Justice Ministry:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With reference to the statement issued by the president's public relations office, this is to inform the noble Iranian nation that, as you are aware, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran invited the president to take part in a televised debate on the university incident and stated that the debate should be attended by all institutions that were the target of a propaganda attack by the president that day. However, in a statement yesterday, the president's office diverted this process from its central course and announced that the president had proposed a face-to-face debate with the president of the Supreme Court, the speaker of the Majlis and the head of the government.

Such a radio and television debate between the officials of the Islamic Republic is of deep interest to a great many of our compatriots; it could help to clarify problems. However, since a great majority of those injured during the sinister incident at Tehran University have lodged complaints against the president with the office of the public prosecutor of Tehran, claiming that he issued orders for their arrest without having any judicial justification, and that such orders had led to their injuries, the participation of the president of the Supreme Court in such a debate is dependent upon an investigation of the president, its outcome and the verdict issued by the court.

Consequently, the president of the Supreme Court will take part in the radio and television debate after the result of these judicial investigations are known.

[Signed] The public relations office of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Justice Ministry

AFP on Exchange of Accusations

NC152126 Paris AFP in English 2101 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Mar (AFP)--Iranian chief prosecutor Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili said here today that legal charges were being considered against 1,519 people in connection with an outbreak of violence on March 5 during a speech by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr at Tehran University.

In a radio-television interview, the ayatollah said that, of the cases already studied by the prosecution, 915 concerned complaints against Mr Bani-Sadr, the president's personal bodyguards and Behzad Nabavi, chief government spokesman.

Mr Nabavi said Tuesday that Mr Bani-Sadr had made himself an accomplice in a vast plot aimed at weakening and eventually toppling the Islamic Republic Government.

Chief prosecutor Ayatollah Ardabili said today that "perhaps certain thugs (involved in the violence) belonged to revolutionary groups" and that "perhaps" he had "documents that proved that the university incidents has been planned two months in advance."

Ayatollah Ardabili told interviewers that Mr Bani-Sadr's office had promised that the president would make no more speeches until the situation had improved in Iran. The Ayatollah Thursday called on Mr Bani-Sadr to cancel all political meetings.

Ayatollah Ardabili's comments were made as the struggle between the president and the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party (IRP) intensified.

New accusations, reported by the press today, fed the flames of polemic pitting the two forces.

The liberal-leaning newspaper MIZAN printed a communique from the president's office requesting the opening of an investigation into the activities of several parties and associations--including the IRP--"which use their budgets, fed by public funds, for propaganda purposes." The communique also called for an investigation into Mr Nabavi's "slanderous allegations."

The pro-government daily KEYHAN, meanwhile, published a communique from the public relations office of Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i criticizing Mr Bani-Sadr for having attended only one Cabinet meeting since the Islamic Republic's first government was formed seven months ago.

The Iranian news agency PARS has reported that 45 people were killed in the university incident.

KHOMEYNI RESUMES MEETINGS; DETAILS REPORTED

Meets With Leaders

GF160719 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received a group of the country's officials at 0830 today. PARS reports that the meeting was attended by Dr Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces; Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i; Dr Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court; Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani; prosecutor Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, prosecutor general; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, Tehran Friday imam and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Majlis Deputy Mehdi Bazargan; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. During the meeting, they discussed the country's various problems.

Meets Officials, Unionists

GF151411 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, received in separate audiences this morning member of the Council of Guardians Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Jannati and Khuzestan Governor General Mohammad Gharazi. His eminence issued the appropriate directives to them.

Brother Gharazi told PARS that he submitted a report to the imam on the political situation in Khuzestan Governorate and the situation on the battlefront. He added: The enemy imagined that he could, by attacking Khuzestan, create political chaos among its masses. But through the awareness of the revolutionary forces, the Khuzestan masses carried out their duty and responsibility themselves and foiled the enemy's plots. The Khuzestan masses valiantly resisted enemy tanks and guns. The Persian and Arab masses are now fighting shoulder to shoulder against the treacherous Saddam.

Also, the imam received in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran this morning large groups of brother and sister members of the Islamic societies union for Tabriz schools. The groups shouted slogans in Azeri and Persian, reiterated their pledge of support for the imam of the nation and expressed total support for the Islamic revolution. The imam expressed his gratitude for the sincere Islamic feelings of the Azarbayjani Muslims.

Meets With Various Groups

LD141102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] According to PARS, this morning, following a week during which all public and private meetings with the imam had been suspended, their Great Eminences Ayatollahs Mohammad Saduqi, Seyyed Asadollah Madani, Seyyed Abdolhoseyn Dastgheyb and Seyyed Jalaleddin Taheri, the Friday imams and the imam's representatives in Yazd, Tabriz, Shiraz and Esfahan, were received in audience by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and discussed various issues.

This morning Hojjat-e Eslam Anvari, Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani, Hajj Sheykh Faziollah Mahallati, Messrs Seyyed Kazem Bojnurdi and Jalali, deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and various strata of the people together with the officials in charge of the imam relief headquarters all over the country, were also received in audience by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

RAJA'I ADDRESSES SEMINAR ON STIMULATION OF ECONOMY

GF141628 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] During a seminar held by the Islamic societies of the organization for reviving and stimulating industry in the country, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said: The resolutionary foundations today bear the burden of 14 centuries of struggle, toil, arrest and imprisonment of the sons of our Muslim people, who have been striving to apply the rules of the Islamic message and employed all resources in this struggle. History has recorded this toil and these sacrifices for them. The sons of our people have expressed readiness to sacrifice their lives to achieve these goals, and these sacrifices are the most important aspect of this struggle and this historic movement. All that we must know today are the sources nurturing the roots of this movement.

In another part of his speech brother Raja'i said: Freedom of thought exists in our society. However, we have to accept the fact that this revolution is an Islamic one and all relations and norms must be based on the principles of Islam--which announced 14 centuries ago and before any philosopher in the world that there is no compulsion in religion. The prime minister added: Since we are members of Islamic societies, we must be aware of and accept the responsibility of the 100,000 martyrs and disabled. Duty calls on the Islamic societies--wherever they may be--to strengthen and consolidate the society even if this leads to the extinction of the societies themselves. Islamic societies should cherish and encourage the spirit of altruism in the society.

Brother Raja'i said: We are determined to increase our factory output in view of our policy of neither East nor West. This goal cannot be realized without taking into consideration the investment of our national resources. To reach this goal, all available resources must be employed in order to prove to the world that we will not kneel to the United States, the Soviet Union, France or Britain.

RAJA'I, NAVAVI ATTEND MEETING ON 1981 BUDGET

LD152106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, a meeting was held at noon today in order to discuss the country's 1981 budget, with the participation of Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister; Mr Behzad Nabavi, the minister of state in charge of executive affairs and government spokesman; and a few members of the Cabinet, in the prime minister's office. At this meeting, which has lasted for the past 6 hours, the budget of the country is being discussed.

BANI-SADR APPOINTS HEAD OF NATIONAL POLICE

LD151358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Col Hushang Vahid-Dastgerdi has been appointed as head of the national police of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Dr Bani-Sadr, the president. [passage indistinct] Carry out your entrusted duties and tasks decisively, using all your legal power, and submit a report on them directly to me.

Regarding armed forces regulations and the imam's orders, in particular his March 1980 message concerning the security of the country's cities, use all your efforts so that within the framework of law people may enjoy the enforcement of the law.

[Signed] The president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, 14 March 1981

BANI-SADR RETURNS TO TEHRAN; SCHEDULE RELEASED

LD151744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, returned to Tehran this evening following a 1-day trip to Khuzestan.

According to a Central News Bureau report, the president's public relations office issued a statement in connection with the presidential visits during the New Year period [commencing 20 March 1981].

The statement says that in view of the fact that the forthcoming New Year coincides with the anniversary of the death of that most holy lady, Her Eminence Fatimah Zahra [daughter of Muhammad], peace be upon her, and out of sympathy with those compatriots observing the martyrdom of their dear ones the president will not conduct his usual official program during the forthcoming New Year but instead will participate in the following special program:

A pilgrimage to His Eminence Imam Reza's shrine [in Mashhad] at the beginning of the New Year.

Saturday, 21 March: a meeting with the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran; a ceremony in Behesht-e Zahra paying tribute to the martyrs, with relatives of the martyrs and those faithful to the martyrs' blood; a meeting with the revolution's invalids; a meeting with foreign ambasssadors and representatives accredited to Tehran.

Sunday, 22 March: a meeting with compatriots who are convalescing from the war in certain relocation centers.

Monday, 23 March: a meeting with relatives of the martyrs and luncheon with them in the air force club in Tehran.

KHAMENE'I ON 13 MAR DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD132126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council met this evening. According to our reporter, the meeting--chaired by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i--heard a report by General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on latest developments on the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war. At the end of the meeting, the Central News Bureau correspondent interviewed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, the imam's representative and spokesman of the Supreme Defense Council, about the decisions made at tonight's session. We will now hear this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Khamene'i, would you please tell our dear listeners what issues were discussed at tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Reports on the war and related affairs constituted the first issue. General Fallahi briefed the council on them. Political matters, and our foreign policy in the region so far as it concerns the council, were also discussed. A plan submitted by the ground forces was reviewed, and other general issues about the war were discussed too, but since Mr Bani-Sadr was not present tonight, unfortunately we could not make any decisions. There were discussions and the council is ready, but decisions will be made in the next session at which his excellency is present.

[Question] You referred to foreign policy. As we have heard in the news, foreign ministers of four countries from the Nonaligned Conference held in New Delhi will arrive in Iran and Baghdad. Will you please tell us what the reaction of the Supreme Defense Council is toward the arrival of these four foreign ministers?

[Answer] This was not discussed in the session but, basically, the coming of these representatives of the nonaligned countries will not present any problems. The Supreme Defense Council does not oppose their visit to Iran or their being informed of the facts with regard to Iran and Iraqi aggression against Iran. From our point of view, this will not be harmful, although it might not be beneficial.

[Question] Habib Chatti said these visits will continue until a final result is achieved. Will you please tell us the outcome of these comings and goings?

[Answer] After our reply, which was communicated to them, we have not seen any new steps taken by this delegation and we do not know of any new developments. Our replies remain the same as those I announced the last session of the Supreme Defense Council which, I think, were reported. There is nothing to be added to that. [end recording]

KHAMENE'I URGES MUSLIMS TO REJECT GULF FORCE

GF131303 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0952 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Friday Arabic sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 13 March--live]

[Excerpts] Peace upon my brothers and sisters in all Muslim countries, particularly in the Arab countries. Peace upon my dear compatriots in Khuzestan. Our Islamic revolution is a revolution against oppression and despotic rule, is a struggle against foreign domination over countries and peoples and is a fight to eliminate material differences and economic inequities. More important, it is a divine, monotheistic revolution opposed to polytheism and atheism.

On the basis of this Islamic philosophy we arrive at conclusions, of which I believe it is necessary to remind you, dear listeners.

1. Attempts by the United States, the spearhead of international arrogance opposed to the Islamic revolution, are, in all their forms, doomed to defeat because our people are determined to fight and struggle for Islam.

2. The pupil of British policy and the agent of the United States--the Abu Jahl [a notorious opponent of Muhammad] will not have a better fate than his master. The best proof of his continual collapse and decline in his insistence upon pretending to seek peace while committting aggression and repeatedly firing rockets at Dezful, Ahvaz, Ilam and Khorramabad--even when the committee sent by the Islamic Conference was in Tehran.

3. The failure of the iniquitous attempts and the exposure of their perpetrators also include hegemonist plans by the superpowers and regional powers--all these attempts are doomed to defeat and ignominy. Here I have something I want to stress: The Gulf is an Islamic region. Therefore, there is no honest Muslim who will tolerate the formation of a multinational force of the countries that for many years stayed in this area and acted tyrannically, protected tyrants, plundered wealth and resources, trampled on the Muslim peoples, and left nothing of their alleged civilization other than these diabolical methods. The designation of a gendarme for the region, protected by the superpowers to safeguard their interests--a role once assigned to the miserable Mohammad Reza--is a matter neither we nor zealous, honest Muslims can tolerate. I hope that all the countries and peoples of the area, realizing the meaning of Islamic honor, will resist any treacherous plan of this kind. The Government of the Islamic Republic will resist this, thanks to the great strength arising from the cohesion of the people with their military strength. Our hostility to the domination of foreigners and refusal to dominate others make it incumbent on others not to seek such domination and not to allow another state to embark on such an initiative.

In conclusion, I remind all my brothers and sisters throughout the world to fear God in word and deed.

RAFSANJANI EXPLAINS POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CLERGY

LD131247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Excer!t] According to a Central News Bureau report from Khorramabad, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, continuing his trip to Lorestan Province, took part in today's Friday prayer ceremonies in Khorramabad and made a speech before the sermon. During the speech he spoke of Ayatollah Kashani, the anniversary of his death, the clergy's role in the Iranian people's struggles, and other important issues of the country.

In part of his speech, commenting on the theme that the clergy are being supported by the people only because they are part of the people and because they have offered sacrifices to implement their Islamic mission, he said: People will always follow those who really stand beside them. There are some who under the title of people and masses are trying to attract people's support; but, people accept those who are form the people in reality. Anyone who is accepted by the people can govern the society and become a responsible ruler at the service of the people. How else could one account for the fact that some movements are victorious, successful and move forward while other movements move backward, are hard and intractable or disintegrate?

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly referred to Ayatollah Kashani as an example to the clergy and paid tribute to him.

RAFSANJANI DISCUSSES UNITY IN MOSQUE ADDRESS

LD141234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpt] According to PARS, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, is continuing his trip to Lorestan Province and this morning, after inspecting the dam at Aligudarz, visited (Dorud) and Ezna districts. He was accompanied by the governor general of Lorestan, Majlis deputies from the province, the commander of the gendarmerie, the chief of police and the political deputy of the governor general.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly made a speech at the Imam Hoseyn mosque in Ezna district on the necessity of unity among the people. He said: We must be united, but the question is: How and with whom? A human being can never unite with his enemy. The first condition for unity is a common belief; the victorious people of Iran have one. He added: We cannot unite with a Marxist who believes that the religion of God and mosques are opiates for the masses. Therefore, when we speak of unity, we mean unity between Muslims, the basis of which is the Constitution and the leader of which is the imam. Mosques and Friday prayers contribute to the creation of unity.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Today our enemies are trying to create discord among us, but fortunately the level of vigilance in this country is so high that the people can easily recognize their friends from their foes and the enemies of God. He emphasized that differences of opinion among the responsible authorities should not culminate in a confrontation within the nation, because it is natural that there should be a difference of opinion between a person who has been raised in the Qom seminary [as heard] and one who has been educated in a foreign university.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, commenting on the request made by the people of Ezna district for investigation of the incident of Thursday 5 March at Tehran University, reiterated: We expect the judicial system of the country to act in accordance with Islamic law and punish the offender, whatever his position might be. He added: In the system of Islamic government, the Majlis plays the role of intermediary between the people and the government; it receives people's requests and passes them to the government.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: When I come into contact with various executive authorities in cities and provinces, Salman Farsi [one of the companions of the prophet] comes to mind. Our duty is to try, with all our power, to strengthen the government and assist it in rebuilding the country in the best possible manner.

TEHRAN ATTACKS U.S. AID TO AFGHAN MUSLIMS

GF151210 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Imperialism, the Murderer of Muslims, Acts as the Savior of Muslims"]

[Excerpts] More than 1 year has elapsed since the military occupation of Afghanistan, and Muslims continue to be martyred throughout the country. The armed Muslims continue to be martyred throughout the country. The armed resistance is being waged to the last drop of blood. The outcome of the Soviet Union's decision to launch a military invasion of Muslim Afghanistan after realizing the magnitude of the power of Islam can be defined as nil.

It is because of the Soviet Union's current helpless situation that Brezhnev and his comrades--who have tried every aspect of killing--have charged Babrak Karmal with the task of winning the sympathy of the Muslim people through [feigning] moderation.

However, just as they have not yielded to napalm bonbs, the Afghan Muslims are not prepared to give in to the artificial sincerity extended to them. With the help of Almighty God, they will not do so in the future.

At this point, however, we have observed a new development. In a very humanitarian and freedom-loving tone, U.S. President Reagan has declared that he is prepared to rush to the aid of the Afghan Muslims. Yes, Reagan expressed his touching humanitarian sentiments last week.

Reagan now seems eager to assume the role of world savior. He is publicizing his desire with the same talent he displayed in his cowboy films. Meanwhile, he is endeavoring to crush all forces that might stand against U.S. imperialism and prevent the realization of his true objective. He is challenging the Soviet Union in the name of humanity, civilization and progress--in short, in the name of all the words used to express good will that are aimed at deceiving the masses. In a very cunning way, however, he is trying to conceal the fact that his main objective is to have the great difference of views in the Islamic world resolved in accordance with his own plans. This is why President Reagan always addressed himself to the Soviet Union as if it was his main target.

Nevertheless, the Soviet Union does not and cannot threaten the United States, because both are like Siamese twins. However, the Soviet Union is threatening Islamic land and is disturbing the Muslims. Therefore, His Excellency Reagan has to rush to the aid of the poor Muslims, who are in a difficult situation. Reagan regards this as a humanitarian obligation and with such sentiments he extends his helping hand to the Afghan Muslims. However, this is a terrible plot, and we are confident that the Afghan Muslims will not be deceived by it. They have aborted all intrigues the kaffirs have perpetrated against them to date. We are also confident that they are well aware of the fact that Reagan's helping hand is stained with blood, and behind it are the murderous hands of the international Mafia groups and the Pentagon. We hope, therefore, that the bloodstained hand Reagan has extended to the Afghan people will not be held but left in the air.

The reply to be given to Reagan should be: Do not cast a shadow. We need no other favor.

ETTELA'AT: PUBLICATION OF 10 NEWSPAPERS BANNED

NC141703 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 14 Mar (AFP)--Ten Iranian newspapers, including publications of the radical fedayins of Islam and of the Maoist Rangebaran Party, have been banned, the newspaper ETTELA'AT reported here today.

The bans were imposed because of the contents of their articles and of legal violations relating to the papers' operations, ETTELA'AT said. The prohibition went into effect during the last two weeks, it said.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 433-436

433: 12-13 Mar Operations

LD131824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Communique 433 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. A summary of battle operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in confrontation with the enemy forces 12-13 March 1981, are announced for the information of the aware Muslim nation of Iran:

A. On southern fronts:

1. Exchange of fire between the army of Islam and enemy forces continued today in Abadan, Darkhovin, Mared and on the Mahshahr-Abadan axis. Our selfless forces opened fire on enemy positions and succeeded in destroying six tanks, one personnel carrier, four vehicles, one vehicle carrying ammunition, one machinegun and several individual and collective trenchs belonging to the aggressors. The exact number of losses and casualties has not been established yet.

2. During the past 24 hours, Saddam's warmongers opened artillery fire on Abadan and as a result of this savage action eight civilian residents of Abadan were martyred and a number were injured. Also, parts of a travel agency and several business and residential units were damaged. On the same day, several enemy planes violated Abadan airspace but their attack was foiled.

3. The faithful supporters of Islam opened heavy artillery fire on As-Sibah, in Iraqi territory, yesterday. In this operation, two enemy trenches and one ammunition dump were destroyed and a number of Saddam's military forces were killed or injured.

4. Yesterday, in the Susangerd region, our brave units destroyed two tanks and one mortar, killed a number of enemy forces and injured some of Saddam's army personnel.

5. On one of the southern fronts yesterday, two Iraqi soldiers reported to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and asked for asylum.

B. On western fronts:

1. As a result of artillery fire by units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday, six vehicles, one field kitchen, three collective tents and four collective trenches belonging to the enemy were destroyed in Kuhlan Biyarah and (?Hargineh), and about 32 Iraqi soldiers were either killed or injured.

2. In the Kan-e Sakht region, fighting continued yesterday between our fighting forces and the deceived Iraqi aggressors. A number of enemy personnel were killed or injured in this region. During other operations in the same region, a command jeep and a military vehicle belonging to the enemy were set on fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

434: Booby-Trapped Articles

LD132158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Communique 434 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. According to reports, it has recently been observed that Iraqi planes have dropped explosives and poisoned articles in some western regions of the country. In one such, an innocent child was poisoned. Considering the fact that the above-mentioned materials can come in various packages, such as canned food, preserves, chocolate and toys, which are prepared by Saddam's criminal regime and dropped in cities, villages and streets, the residents of all border regions are therefore asked to report any such items to the gendarmerie post, military bases or the revolution guards corps before touching them, in order to prevent any possible danger.

435: 13-14 Mar Developments

LD142204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Communique 435 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: Some of the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and developments at the war fronts on 13 and 14 March are hereby brought to your attention:

1. On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, our artillery fire destroyed two tanks, five observation posts, a number of individual and group entrenchments, a bulldozer, a machinegun and an ammunition depot belonging to Saddam's army. The exact number of enemy dead has not yet been established. On the Darkhovin-Mared front, the enemy suffered 20 killed or wounded. The selfless devotees of Islam on one of the Abadan fronts succeeded in destroying two personnel carriers, a number of individual and group entrenchments and a 75-mm gun belonging to the Iraqi aggressors. About 35 Iraqi mercenaries were either killed or wounded in these operations. On the Khuninshahr front, three observation posts and a fuel tank were destroyed and a number of Iraqi personnel were killed as a result of our combatants' fire on enemy positions in the occupied part of the city. On the afternoon of 13 March the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on an enemy boat anchored by the Chahar Cheragh jetty near Al-Faw and set it on fire. This boat, which the enemy used as a battle position and an ammunition depot, lost two heavy 10-mm guns as a result of our fire.

2. Inside Iraq territory: This morning 14 March our combatants shelled Iraqi positions in 'Umm ar-Raffah, Kut az-Zayn and [name indistinct]. The extent of the losses inflicted on the enemy is not known. At noon today the selfless personnel of the Airborne Division of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran hit an observation tower in Iraq and completely destroyed its equipment.

3. Enemy operations: On 13 March Saddam's mercenaries opened artillery and long-range weapons fire on residential areas in Abadan, martyring 5 of our Abadani compatriots and wounding 24 others. Several residential units in the city were destroyed.

4. On the Ahvaz fronts: exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire between our brave forces and Saddam's army on 13 March resulted in the destruction of two enemy tanks and an ammunition depot and the killing of a considerable number of enemy personnel.

5. In the Dezful region: Our brave forces fired on one of Saddam's army's frontline positions, destroying an ammunition depot and an enemy vehicle and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi aggressors.

6. On the western fronts: In an exchange of artillery, heavy weapons and mortar fire between our combatants and Saddam's mercenaries on the Shur-e Shirin front, two enemy mortars were destroyed and a number of Saddam's military personnel were killed. Twelve enemy soldiers were also killed on the Marivan front. In the same region two of the deceived members of Saddam's army, having escaped the army of blasphemy, reported to the Sar Dasht and Marivan garrisons and asked for asylum. Also, one Muslim officer and one Muslim soldier of the Iraqi Army took shelter with the army of Islam at 2300 on 12 March and joined their Iranian brothers on one of the Dezful fronts. On 13 March four Muslim Iraqi NCO's asked for asylum in the Reqabiyeh region and were warmly welcomed by their Muslim Iranian brothers.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

436: 14 Mar Fighting

LD152042 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Communique 436 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the most exalted. We hereby inform you of developments on different fronts during the past 24 hours:

1. One enemy MiG, which violated the airspace of our Islamic country in one of the southern fronts around Khark Island, was downed by antiaircraft fire.

2. Saddam's army attacked the cities of Ahvaz and Dezful with its missile and artillery fire and consequently one person was martyred and three others were wounded. In this process eight residential houses and five shops were also damaged.

3. In the areas of Abadan and Khuninshahr, due to the exchange of artillery fire in the gathering site of the Iraqi forces, one observation post and one ammunition depot were set on fire. The brave personnel of the coast guard destroyed two group and several individual bunkers of Saddam's army. Due to the retaliatory attack of the enemy on the residential areas of Abadan, six houses and one hospital were damaged.

4. In the Susangerd area, the defenders of the revolution fired on the enemy positions and killed 16 of their armed forces.

5. In the Dezful area, the valiant Airborne Division prevented the enemy from moving and destroyed one tank, three vehicles and two enemy entrenchments.

6. Yesterday, in the western part of the country, our forces' fire destroyed an outpost on Iraqi soil. In this operation several of Saddam's forces were injured. The positions of the defenders of the revolution were under the fire of the enemy, which was reciprocated, and a certain amount of damage was inflicted on their army. In the Mehran area last night, one vehicle, one piece of heavy artillery and several group bunkers of the enemy were destroyed and several of the deluded soldiers of Saddam were either killed or injured.

7. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran honorably presented 14 martyrs to Almighty God, the combatant nation of Iran and the imam.

CLANDESTINE RADIO COMMENTS ON DISORDER, IN FIGHTING

GF131632 (Clandestine) Ahvaz Voice of Al-Qadisiyah in Arabic 0552 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Disunity is the main feature of the current situation in Iran. Everything in Iran is divided, scattered and contradictory--beginning with Khomeyni's family, the government and the bazaar and ending with the villages, cities and laymen.

Khomeyni, for example, is the head of the regime, its counselor and its big charlatan. Yet, his brother Pasandideh is plotting against the regime, as was announced by Rafsanjani. Rafsanjani and his clique proved that Khomeyni's brother participated in a well-planned speech that aimed at conspiring against the Majlis and the government. Rafsanjani is waving the concrete evidence against Pasandideh and the other plotters. Who knows--perhaps Khomeyni himself is collaborating with his brother and partner.

Raja'i is the prime minister of the regime. Yet, he knows that Bani-Sadr is exploiting his position and authority and is using the law to his advantage, as if he were running an opposition government. Bani-Sadr reminds the Iranians daily that Raja'i, his government, his party and the Majlis do nothing but conspire against the president of the regime in order to deprive him of his power and get rid of him. The army is with Bani-Sadr and the guards are with Khomeyni, Beheshti, Raja'i and the ayatollahs. Each side is plotting against and watching over the other as well as exaggerating its faults, defeats and perhaps its crimes.

Half of the bazaar is with Bani-Sadr and the other half is with Raja'i and Khomeyni. Merchants supporting Bani-Sadr close down their shops on Bani-Sadr's instructions. Merchants supporting the ayatollahs open theirs. No doubt, there are many people who are not siding with either party. Perhaps these people have fled Iran forever to escape this hell created by Khomeyni.

The demonstrators are of two kinds: One is with the president and the other is with the prime minister. When Bani-Sadr delivers a speech, his opponents shout against him and clash with the other side. If Beheshti talks, Bani-Sadr's supporters shout against him and prevent him from speaking. Of course, there are many Iranians--and perhaps they are the overwhelming majority in Iranian streets--who despise the president, prime minister and Khomeyni's clique.

The Iranian cities and villages are also divided. As is known, there are cities and villages controlled by the valiant Iraqis. The Iranian leaders refuse to retrieve these cities peacefully. They also refuse to restore the legitimate rights of the Iraqis and Arab nation and insist on fighting. Many cities and villages in the Provinces of Western Azarbayjan and Kordestan are under the firm control of the Kurds, who call for their legitimate national rights within autonomous rule. The Iranian leaders are disregarding the human and just rights of the Iranian people. They even insist on killing and annihilating these people. There are other cities that have declared total independence from the Iranian rulers. This happened in (?Lahijan) on the Caspian Sea in northwest Iran. What does this extraordinary state of chaos, division and disorder in Iran mean and where is it leading? It means one specific thing: everything in Iran is leading toward total collapse and imminent downfall. Despite all this, the ignorant, bloodthirsty clique in Qom and Tehran is still proudly talking about continuing the aggressive war against Iraq and is rejecting the good, peaceful moves and calls that have been made.

RADIO IRAN CITES LAINGEN, ORIENTOLOGIST ON REGIME

NC150751 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Telephone report by the radio's correspondent in New York--live or recorded]

[Excerpt] The Voice of America yesterday carried parts of an interview with former U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Iran Bruce Laingen. Laingen has said that the people of Iran do not trust the mullahs any more and that it seems that the life of the present regime is not to last very long. Laingen advised the U.S. Government not to hurry in establishing relations with Tehran.

It is interesting to note that in addition to Mr Bruce Laingen, a famous Orientologist, in an interview with TIME magazine, has described the Islamic regime as a disaster on the verge of downfall and has stressed that today Khomeyni does not have the popularity or influence he had in the first days of the revolution; possibly he will soon withdraw from politics.